UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/825/Part I/17
28 July 1994

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-fifth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1993-1994 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1995

PART I. AFRICA

Section 17 - Somalia (North-West Somalia)

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.94-02919

I.15 SOMALIA (NORTH-WEST SOMALIA)

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee and returnee population

1. At 31 December 1993, there were 364 Ethiopian refugees in Hargeisa, of whom 64 per cent were adult men (mainly former military personnel and some officials of the previous Ethiopian regime), 20 per cent adult women and 16 per cent children.

2. The main beneficiaries of UNHCR's activities in North-West Somalia, estimated at some 600,000, are returnees from the Horn of Africa sub-region, Yemen, as well as from other parts of Somalia. Some 300,000 of this number had returned to North-West Somalia spontaneously in 1991. In 1993, 2,012 returnees were airlifted from camps in Kenya to the Sool and Sanaag regions of North-West Somalia; further arrangements are currently underway for the movement of another 6,000 refugees who wish to return to the same areas. In addition, some 15,000 Somali refugees in Djibouti have registered for voluntary repatriation to North-West Somalia, and it is anticipated that about 200,000 from the camps in eastern Ethiopia will also wish to return there, as will 30,000 from Yemen, other areas of the Middle East and some countries in Europe.

Major developments (1993 and first quarter 1994)

3. As a result of the Boroma Peace Conference in May 1993 a Central Administration was set-up for North-West Somalia with an elected Government. The Central Administration and elders of the main ethnic groups requested assistance from UNHCR and the international community for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for Somali returnees from the Horn of Africa sub-region. In this context, and in view of the relative stability and peace prevailing in North-West Somalia, UNHCR launched an appeal for repatriation to Somalia in September 1993. This was followed by the establishment of a Tripartite Committee for Repatriation (TCR) in Djibouti, composed of the Government of Djibouti, the North-West Somalia Administration and UNHCR. Major donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have since been systematically associated with the activities of this Committee, which has held several meetings in both Djibouti and Hargeisa. As a result, a number of preparatory activities have been undertaken.

4. Although proceeding slowly, the demobilization and disarmament of the clan militia has met with some success, with some 6,000 of an estimated 50,000 persons so far demobilized. Approximately 3,000 will be trained as police officers; UNHCR has consequently redeployed four vehicles to the police force. It is hoped that de-mining activities in major areas of return will be given priority in the de-mining plans of the United Nations Operations for Somalia (UNOSOM II).

Programme objectives and priorities

5. The main objective of UNHCR activities in North-West Somalia is to facilitate the return and reintegration of approximately 600,000 Somali refugees from the Horn of Africa sub-region and elsewhere. The majority of these refugees have been living in refugee camps in eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti. The assistance to be provided is aimed at rehabilitating community-based services and infrastructure in areas of return. Some 300,000 persons are believed to have already returned spontaneously to North-West Somalia since 1991, mostly from camps in eastern Ethiopia, although many still travel back and forth between Ethiopia and Somalia, taking advantage of the continuing assistance in the camps. In addition, more than 15,000 Somali refugees in camps in Djibouti have registered for voluntary repatriation to North-West Somalia. Meanwhile, the repatriation to North-West Somalia has been proceeding in small groups and on an individual basis from various countries in the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

6. In coordination with the Central Administration, rehabilitation and reintegration projects are to be implemented by local and international NGOs and by UNHCR. WFP will supply basic food for the vulnerable groups amongst the returnee and displaced populations and will implement several food-for-work programmes. Active participation of UNOSOM II and UNDP in the demobilization and disarmament activities is being encouraged by UNHCR to ensure the return of refugees in conditions of safety and dignity. UNHCR will also work in close collaboration with UNOSOM II to ensure that de-mining activities are undertaken in the main areas of return and reintegration. A joint UNHCR/UNESCO mine awareness campaign will be further developed and implemented in all the areas of reintegration. FAO will implement livestock projects.

General Programmes

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

7. About 84 metric tons of food, 2,920,000 litres of water and firewood for cooking were provided by UNHCR for the care and maintenance of some 375 Ethiopian refugees in Hargeisa during 1993, as compared to an initial estimated number of 500. Health services were also provided to all refugee patients in addition to the subsistence assistance initially foreseen, and shower units and pit latrines were constructed to improve the hygienic conditions at the refugee sites.

(b) **1994 planned implementation**

8. It is anticipated that 77 metric tons of food, 3,000,000 litres of water as well as firewood will be delivered in 1994 to the remaining 364 Ethiopian refugees. They will be distributed by the Ministry of Interior under UNHCR supervision. Health services, provided through the Ministry of Health, will also continue.

(c) **1995 programme proposals**

9. In the absence of any prospects for self-reliance and pending the possibility for voluntary repatriation, care and maintenance assistance will continue to be

provided to individual Ethiopian refugees in Hargeisa. As the Central Administration has requested the relocation of the "camp" from the centre of town, this may facilitate either their voluntary repatriation or their local integration.

Special Programmes

Horn of Africa

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

10. The request to implement rehabilitation and reintegration projects and to commence the voluntary repatriation programme resulted in the reopening of the UNHCR Office in Hargeisa in June 1993, followed by the opening of two UNHCR operational bases in Burao and Boroma. Arrangements were made to open a third operational base in Lasanood to receive the caseload from Kenya, but this was deferred due to the socio-political problems in North-West Somalia.

11. Assistance was provided for the benefit of the 300,000 Somali refugees who have already returned spontaneously to North-West Somalia from the camps in eastern Ethiopia. At the same time, demobilization, disarmament and de-mining activities have gradually begun with some success.

12. Following the September 1993 appeal for repatriation to Somalia and the subsequent establishment of the Tripartite Committee for Repatriation, a number of preparatory activities have been undertaken, which include the registration of potential returnees, identification of their respective areas of origin/return, the designation and implementation of rehabilitation/reintegration projects, as well as seeking cooperation with all the parties concerned for the repatriation process.

(b) **1994 planned implementation**

13. On the assumption that demobilization, disarmament and reconciliation will continue, UNHCR will pursue its collaboration with UNOSOM II to ensure that de-mining activities are undertaken at border crossing-points, roads, and on agricultural land in potential areas of return. The joint UNHCR/UNESCO mine awareness pilot project will also be further developed and implemented in all areas of reintegration. Visual aids will be produced and distributed to schools, women's groups and health centres etc.

14. UNHCR will ensure the transportation of relief items from the Djibouti and Berbera ports to project sites in areas of rehabilitation and reintegration. Warehouses will be constructed or rented and support staff hired. Ten seven-ton trucks will be procured and deployed to project sites, security permitting. Air charter services for cargo and personnel will continue to be arranged until security conditions allow for travel by road to the main areas of integration.

15. UNHCR will also work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Natural Resources, UNICEF and OXFAM to rehabilitate water sources/facilities and install pumps where necessary. Emphasis will be placed on rehabilitating earth-dams with rubber linings and the installation of pumps to remove excess water which could cause leakages or erosion. Shallow wells will also be restored and pumps

installed. Ten water tankers will be procured to truck water to reintegration areas once water sources have been further explored.

16. Arrangements will be made by UNHCR to provide funds to NGOs to rehabilitate hospitals, health centres, clinics and centres for mother and child health care within the framework of community-based quick impact projects (QIPs). UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO will provide drugs, equipment and other supplies as well as training for staff of the Ministry of Health. Arrangements will also be made to develop health posts and to implement public health and sanitation programmes.

17. Other community participation and food-for-work activities will be developed with support from WFP for labour-intensive activities to rebuild infrastructures in areas of reintegration. Arrangements will be made to purchase building materials at subsidized prices to assist returnees in reconstructing houses destroyed during the war.

18. In support of the rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools, an additional food-for-work programme with WFP input will be developed. A combined UNHCR/UNESCO/UNICEF programme will be organized in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education to reactivate the formal and non-formal education programmes, including teacher training, production of textbooks, and the provision of basic equipment of schools.

19. There will be a special focus on women's groups by providing funds through a credit scheme for small-scale projects such as bakeries, tea-shops, tailoring, mat weaving, handicrafts and production of clarified butter from a backyard livestock programme. Bee-keeping production and the processing of animal skin for the production of leather will also be supported.

20. UNHCR, in close collaboration with FAO, will assist with the livestock programme, whereby some 100 nomadic veterinary health auxiliaries (20 from each of the five regions) will be trained in animal health care. Veterinary drugs will be provided in support of this programme for returnees.

21. Seeds, tools, pesticides and agricultural equipment will be provided under a joint UNHCR/FAO programme. Employees from the Ministry of Agriculture will be trained to provide technical backup to returnee farmers. Furthermore, poultry farming will be developed in villages, and fishing equipment will be provided through a credit scheme/revolving fund.

22. In order to disseminate accurate information on the general situation in North-West Somalia and to promote voluntary repatriation, local Somali elders and regional authorities will travel to neighbouring countries to discuss conditions in Somalia with refugees in the countries of asylum.

23. Arrangements will also be made to organize information campaigns through the press and radio in North-West Somalia about UNHCR's policy on voluntary repatriation, with an emphasis on the nature of the assistance to be provided, the importance of the community-based projects and their cost effectiveness in relation to individual handouts.

24. In order to facilitate the overall implementation of the returnee programme, arrangements will be made to strengthen the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and other related ministries with whom UNHCR collaborates closely.

(c) **1995 programme proposals**

25. It is envisaged that the voluntary repatriation programme will be organized in phases, possibly over a period of 18 months from mid-1994 until the end of 1995, taking into consideration factors such as the ongoing peace process, the pace of demobilization, disarmament and de-mining. The proposals for 1995 represent a continuation of activities undertaken in 1994, with a view to covering uncompleted aspects, strengthening achievements and ensuring sustainability of the reintegration projects.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

(a) **Variations in planned activities in 1993**

26. The UNHCR Hargeisa Office was reopened in June 1993 to provide direction to the implementation of the returnee programme in North-West Somalia. This was followed by the opening of two operational bases in Burao and Boroma. However, the implementation of administrative decisions, particularly those related to staffing, was delayed due to the changing socio-political situation. In 1993, expenditures were incurred for office rent, procurement of furniture, office supplies and equipment. Administrative expenditures were relatively low at the beginning of the year due to the fact that responsibilities for Hargeisa was maintained through a Liaison Office in Djibouti, referred to as the Somalia Unit. Common staff costs and travel expenses remained high due to the very fluid situation at the Zeila border post as well as frequent travel by UNHCR staff in North-West Somalia to Djibouti for security reasons. This was offset by the lower than planned expenditure for the purchase of non-expendable property, notably vehicles, again due to the security situation.

(b) **1994 planned implementation**

27. The 1994 revised estimate includes provisions for the staffing and operating costs of the office in Hargeisa and for two operational bases in Boroma and Borao. Additional office space, furniture, office equipment and computers will also be required for the two new operational bases, and relevant budgetary amounts have therefore been included. The expanded returnee programme may necessitate an increase in UNHCR staff but, for the time being, short-term contracts for immediate needs will be established until such time as the repatriation movements start.

28. However, with the ongoing demobilization and disarmament programmes, the reactivation of the police force and efforts by the Central Administration, the security situation is expected to improve in the course of the year. Conditions permitting, the procurement and deployment of vehicles to North-West Somalia is foreseen in 1994. Budgetary provisions for this have been included in the revised 1994 budget.

(c) **1995 programme proposals**

29. The anticipated duration of the returnee programme is approximately one year as of mid-1994, with a possible extension of six months up to the end of 1995. As a consequence, the initial 1995 budget is slighly lower than the 1994 revised budget, since it is expected that all the non-expendable equipment will have been purchased during 1994.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN SOMALIA (NORTH-WEST SOMALIA)

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994		1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1993 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
100.0	100.0	50.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	60.0
100.0	**100.0**	**50.0**	**SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**60.0**
100.0	100.0	50.0	TOTAL (1)	60.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
18,895.7	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Emergency Assistance	–
8,499.4	22,000.0	3,125.0	HORN OF AFRICA	5,000.0
–	–	1,194.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Annexes I a and II a	1,042.5
27,395.1	22,000.0	4,319.2	TOTAL (2)	6,042.5
27,495.1	22,100.0	4,369.2	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	6,102.5